

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05

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R 131646Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7981

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 151

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 9859

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: TOBACCO CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM

REF: STATE 270348 (NOTAL)

1. ON DEC. 11 WE CONVEYED THE MAIN POINTS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTEL TO JANSSENS OF THE EC COMMISSION'S "ADMINISTRATION OF THE CUSTOMS UNION". HE RESPONDED ON DEC. 12 THAT SEVEAL OF THE POINTS MADE SEEMED DOUBTFUL TO HIM. FOR EXAMPLE, EUROPEAN EXPERTS OF LONG EXPERIENCE HAD TOLD HIM THEY COULD NOT EASLIY DISTINGUISH FLUE-CURED VIRGINIA AND LIGHT AIR-CURED BURLEY FROM OTHER TYPES OF TOBACCO. HE SAID THAT IN ANY CASE HE WOULD DISCUSS THE PROBLEM,INCLUDING OUR RESPONSE, WITH MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES NEXT WEEK.

2. HOWEVER, JANSSENS NOTED, HE NO LONGER VIEWED THIS CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM AS AN URGENT ONE. HE HAS BEEN

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INFORMED THAT IMPORTS INTO THE COMMUNITY OF FLUE-

CURED VIRGINIA AND LIGHT AIR-CURED BURLEY TOBACCO CURRENTLY ARE OF VALUES PER PACKAGE BELOW 280 UNITS OF ACCOUNT PER 100 KILOS. THEREFORE, THEY ARE PROPERLY CLASSIFIABLE IN CXT SUBHEADING 24.01B.

3. PRICE RISES COULD MAKE THIS A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT JANSSENS IS INTERESTED IN THE OFFER OF CONSULTATIONS MADE IN REFTEL. HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AFTER NEW YEAR'S.

4. JANSSENS ALSO ASKED ABOUT CERTIFICATION. WE INFORMED HIM THAT, WHILE USDA IS INVOLVED IN CERTIFICATION AT THE AUCTION LEVEL, EXTENSION TO EXPORT SALES WOULD GIVE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND GIVE RISE TO COSTS. HE RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF THESE POINTS AND SAID THAT HE MENTIONED CERTIFICATION ONLY AS A LAST RESORT IF OTHER POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS PROVED UNSATISFACTORY.

5. IT APPEARS FROM THE ENCLOSURES TO EC -191 OF APRIL 10, 1974, THAT THE EC AVOIDS CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS REGARDING FLUE-CURED VIRGINIA IMPORTED UNDER THE EC GSP, BY REQUIRING THAT SUCH IMPORTS BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY EITHER ISSUED BY OR GUARANTEED BY THE EXPORTING COUNTRY. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, STANDARDS, TOBACCO, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU09859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0525
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabfyk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 270348
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOBACCO CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM
TAGS: ETRD, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005